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1c. *Harsh treatment:* Pour several hundred milliliters of boiling 0.1% SDS onto the membrane. Cool to room temperature.

If a membrane is to be reprobed, it must not be allowed to dry out between hybridization and stripping. If it becomes dry, the probe may bind to the matrix.

2. Place membrane on a sheet of dry Whatman 3MM filter paper and blot excess liquid with a second sheet. Wrap the membrane in plastic wrap and set up an autoradiograph.

If signal is still seen after autoradiography, rewash using harsher conditions.

3. The membrane can now be rehybridized. Alternatively, it can be dried and stored for later use.

Membranes can be stored dry between Whatman 3MM paper for several months at room temperature. For long-term storage, place the membranes in a desiccator at room temperature or 4°C.

REAGENTS AND SOLUTIONS

Aqueous prehybridization/hybridization (APH) solution

5× SSC (*APPENDIX 2*)
5× Denhardt solution (*APPENDIX 2*)
1% (w/v) SDS
Add 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA (see below) just before use

Alternatives to Denhardt solution and denatured salmon sperm DNA as blocking agents are listed in Table 2.10.5 (see discussion in critical parameters).

Denatured salmon sperm DNA

Dissolve 10 mg Sigma type III salmon sperm DNA (sodium salt) in 1 ml water. Pass vigorously through a 17-G needle 20 times to shear the DNA. Place in a boiling water bath for 10 min, then chill. Use immediately or store at −20°C in small aliquots. If stored, reheat to 100°C for 5 min and chill on ice immediately before using.

Formamide prehybridization/hybridization (FPH) solution

5× SSC (*APPENDIX 2*)
5× Denhardt solution (*APPENDIX 2*)
50% (w/v) formamide
1% (w/v) SDS
Add 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA (see above) just before use

Alternatives to Denhardt solution and denatured salmon sperm DNA as blocking agents are listed in Table 2.10.5 (see discussion in critical parameters).

Commercial formamide is usually satisfactory for use. If the liquid has a yellow color, deionize as follows: add 5 g of mixed-bed ion-exchange resin [e.g., Bio-Rad AG 501-X8 or 501-X8(D) resins] per 100 ml formamide, stir at room temperature for 1 hr, and filter through Whatman no. 1 paper.

CAUTION: *Formamide is a teratogen. Handle with care.*

Labeling buffer

200 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5
30 mM $MgCl_2$
10 mM spermidine

Mild stripping solution

5 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8.0
2 mM EDTA
0.1× Denhardt solution (*APPENDIX 2*)